NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1898.-SIXTEEN PAGES.

SAGASTA STILL BAFFLED.

MEN WHO MAY GO IN TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT.

LATEST REPORTS SHOW THAT THE PREMIER IS NEGOTIATING WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS.

Madrid, May 17, 10 p. m .- It is announced officially this evening that the reconstructed Cabinet will probably be made up as follows: President of the Council-PRAXEDES SAGASTA. nister of Foreign Affairs-LEON Y CASTILLO. Minister of War-Lieutenant-General CORREA. Minister of the Colonies Seffor GAMAZO

Minister of Finance-LOPEZ PUIGCERVER Minister of the Interior-F. R. CAPDEPON. Minister of Justice-C. GROIZARD.

Minister of Public Instruction-ROMERO GIRON. Midnight.-The composition of the new Ministry is still undefined, but it is regarded as certain that Senor Gatado will enter the Cabinet. It is also rumored that Sefior Capdepon may finally take the Colonial portfolio, and that in such an event Sefior Aunon or Admiral Camara may became Minister of Marine

The men named in the foregoing list who were not in the Cabinet which resigned last Sunday are Senors Leon y Castillo, Butler, Gamazo and Giron. They take the places of Senor Gullon, Minister of Foreign Affairs: Admiral Bermejo, Minister of Marine; Señor Moret, Minister for the Colonies, and Count Xiquena, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce and of

NAVAL REPORTS FROM MADRID.

Madrid, May 17, 11 p. m.-Rear-Admiral Camara, who is in command of the Spanish reserve squadron at Cadiz, and who had been ordered to come to Madrid to consult with the Ministry of Marine as to his naval plans, has received counter-orders instructing him to remain at Cadiz.

Instructions have been given to the maritime authorities of Barcelona not to permit the departure of large steamers which might be used as "auxiliary cruisers."

A report is current here that "the Spanish flotilla at Havana is about to make another sortie." This kind of news keeps up the spirits of the people here.

An official dispatch from San Juan de Porto Rico just received says that no warship arrived there yesterday or to-day.

A MORE VIGOROUS POLICY.

COURSE INSISTED ON BY THE NEW ELE-MENT IN THE CABINET.

London, May 18 .- The Madrid correspondent of "The Standard," telegraphing on Tuesday,

"Señor Sagasta spent the whole day in conferences with several members of the last Cabinet and in fresh negotiations with the leaders of the Right Wing of the Liberals, Senor Gamazo and Senor Maura, who insist upon obtaining, as a condition of their joining the Ministry, a welldefined programme upon the following points: The war, the international question, the Colonial policy in the West Indies and the Philippines, home affairs and finance, both for present urgent ways and means and for the future reor-

Seflors Gamazo and Maura aim at vigorous action in every respect to convince both the enemies and friends of Spain that the nation itself and the new Cabinet intend to show themselves equal to the task of facing all present emergencies and of arriving at definite solu-

"The Spanish papers resolutely discuss the exsame time agreeing with the monarchical papers in expecting much from the attitude of Emperor keen and bitter for alliances against England.

"The Queen Regent has suspended all receptions and festivities arranged for in Madrid and the provinces on the occasion of the twelfth birthday of her son to-day (Tuesday) in view of the war and the situation in Spain. She, however, distributed 25,000 pesetas among the local charities and hospitals. Numerous telegrams of sympathy were received from foreign courts, the most conspicuous being from the Pope, Emperor Francis Joseph, Emperor Nicholas, Emperor William and ex-Queen Isabella of Spain."

ATTACK ON MANILA PLANNED.

London, May 18 .- The Hong Kong correspondent of "The Times," telegraphing on Tuesday

"Aguinaldo and the principal leaders in the recent rising left to-day in the United States dispatch-beat McCulloch for Cavité. They will attempt to persuade the natives to attack Manila in a few days. They have promised Admiral Dewey to regulate their conduct in accordance with the principles of humanity.

"The Americans are evidently anxious to complete their conquest before the arrival of the troops from San Francisco. British residents now take a more hopeful view, and a famine is no longer feared."

AUGUSTI'S FIRST "REFORM."

London, May 18 .- A dispatch to "The Times" from Manila, dated May 13, says:

"As a means of keeping the natives loyal and inducing them to refrain from assisting the Americans, Governor-General Augusti has instituted a Consulting Assembly, composed of fifteen members, of mixed and native blood. Its president is Sefior Paterno, who achieved the late peace and accompanied the rebels to Hong

Kong in December. "Preparations are being made to send the food supplies to outlying districts in case of a bom-

"The Archbishop of Manila appoints June 17 bext as a day of rejoicing at the renewed conse-cration of the Philippine Islands to the Sacred

HOW SPANISH LETTERS ARE TREATED. Madrid, May 17, 3 p. m.—The ne vapapers here as-sert that letters for Spain, even letters containing thecks and other valuables, have been stopped at New-York and destroyed. The papers demand that the Government make reprisals upon Americans resident in Spain, especially in the case of the cor-respondence of American newspapers.

who deals with letters arriving in this city addressed to Spanish destinations, was not at his office last night. The clerk in charge of the department, however, emphatically denied to a Tribune reporter the assertions contained in the foregoing dispatch as to the destruction of letters and their contents. "Nothing is destroyed," he said; "in fact, every effort is made to return Spanish malis to the senders. When letters or packages for Spain containing the address of the sender on the corner reach this office they are immediately returned intact. No letters are opened in this city at all, When the envelope bears no address of the sender, the mell is sent to Washington, and is opened there. Each letter or package is then sent back whence it came. If it should happen that there is no name or address contained inside, or no means of discovery of the sender, the matter is given over to the care of the Dead Letter Office.

"Malis for Spain from Mexico or other South American countries which are forwarded through the United States are sent to London and taken charge of by the English postal authorities." Cressed to Spanish destinations, was not at his of-

escribed in series of sketches beginning to-day Brooklyn Dally Eagle.—Advt.

EVE-CI HOUR IN THE DAI

a through train leaves Grand Central Station for the North or West by the New-York Central. See time-table, this paper.—Advt. Brooklyn Dally Eagle.-Advt.

NO CABINET YET IN MADRID. THE CONCORD AND THE BOSTON SENT HAWAHAN JOINT RESOLUTION FAVOR-TO THAT PORT.

> THEY EXPECT INCIDENTALLY TO RECAPT- A GOOD PROSPECT OF EARLY AND FAVOR-URE THE SARANAC-REBELS USE-LESS AS ALLIES-OCCUR-

RENCES AT MANILA. (Copyright: 1898; The Associated Press.) Hong Kong. May 17.-The steamer Esmeralda has just arrived from Manila with four hundred refugees, chiefly Chinese. She reports that the United States cruisers Concord and Boston are going to Hollo, where they expect prompt capitulation, and to recapture the American ship

The blockade of Manila is extremely rigid, and several foreign ships have asked in vain for admittance.

The rebels are useless as allies of Admiral Dewey. They are utterly disunited, quite half of them being in favor of Spain.

The Cavité arsenal was found empty. Colonel Miquel, of the artillery, committed suicide because there was no ammunition.

Captain-General Augusti is trying to conciliate the rebels, and has authorized the establishment of native councils. The Archbishop of Manila in a pastoral issued on May 8 said:

Christians, defend your faith against hereties, who raise an insuperable barrier to immor-tal souls, enslave the people, abolish crosses from cemeteries, forbid pastors to perform bap-tism, matrimony or funeral rites, or to admin-ister consolation or grant absolution.

Pending the arrival of troops from the United States, the Americans defer hostilities ashore.

GENERAL MERRITT EXPLAINS. CERTAIN INTERVIEWS WITH HIM UN-AUTHORIZED, HE SAYS.

Washington, May 17 .- The War Department was treated to a sensation to-day through the publication of an interview in a number of papers attributing to General Wesley Merritt utterances which were construed as insubordi-Considerable astonishment was manifested that General Merritt, however great the provocation, should publish his dissatisfaction with the troops assigned to him for the Philippine expedition, and officers who knew him expressed confidence that he had been placed in an unfortunate position, perhaps through the indiscretion of some personal friend, or through the loose use of language by reporters undertaking to reproduce from memory his ideas in

General Merritt's simple statement that he did not care to go to the Philippines with an inadequate force of raw recruits was, however, indorsed by every officer on duty in Washington, who agreed fully with him that a prepon derance of trained men was absolutely essential to the duty expected of the military force ordered to reinforce Admiral Dewey. They had no hesitation in saying that no one knew better than General Merritt, who has the reputation of being one of the best frontler fighters in the the disastrous results which on frequent occasions have followed the dispatch of a few regulars to hunt down twice as many Indlans. But there were no apologists for the grave breach of discipline that was involved in the criticism as published in one or two of the

The matter promptly came to the attention of the President, who decided to take no definite action until General Merritt had had an opportunity to "rise to a question of personal priviand declare whether he had been correctly quoted. It is understood that one of General Merritt's friends telegraphed to him privately that the interview had caused annoyance here as tending to embarrass the Government, and soon after noon Secretary Alger received the following telegram from the General:

pediency of Continental alliances, which they affect to consider one of the principal objects of the future Cabinet. The Republican papers the future of them, but I underlying the continent of them, but I underlying the continent of them. stand the articles are taken seriously in was:

W. MERRITT.

the War Department to take any further steps in the affair. General Merritt has, however, been directed to come to Washington for consultation with the President and to receive his final orders. It is the prevailing impression here that he will get four or five regiments of Regulars for duty in the Philippines, and that instead of some of the Pacific Coast volunteers assigned to the expedition better equipped and trained National Guardsmen from the country east of the Rockies will be assigned to his command.

GEN. MERRITT PREPARING TO START.

The appointment of General Merritt to command the new Department of the Pacific and the assignment of Brigadier-General Frank temporarily to command of the Department of the East had not officially reached Governor's Island yesterday afternoon, but were expected. The announcement from Washington that General Merritt would have as many regular troops as he desired for the Philippines expedition cleared up any doubt in regard the possibility of his not commanding the expedition. General Merritt said he wanted it understood that there was not the alightest intent on his part of any disobedience of orders, and that expedition would be a success.

ompany General Merritt said that the preparations for departure were being hurrled as much as possible, and that General Merrist would be ready to go in a few days. The preparations are being completed for turning over the Department work to the new commander.

the head of the artillery school at Fort Monroe since 1888. He is a West Pointer, having been gradunted in 1858. He was assigned to the 5th Infantry. When the Civil War broke out he was a first lieufield, becoming a captain in 1862. In the same year he was made a brevet major for gallant and meritorious conduct in the Peninsular campaign, and a brevet lieutenant-colonel for similar service at 1881, and his lieutenant-colonelship in 1889. In 1894 there are so many guns mounted upon the fortifica-

tions along the coast.

The command of about filteen thousand volunteers will fall to the lot of the General of the Department of the East, as one regiment of infantry and one light battery from Connecticut, one regiment of infantry and one heavy battery of artiflery from Massachusetts, one heavy battery from Maine, one regiment of infantry from Rhode Island, one regiment of infantry from Rhode Island, one regiment of infantry from Delaware, two battallons of infantry from Maryland, four regiments of infantry and three troops of cavalry from Pennsylvania and three regiments of infantry from this State have been assigned to him as a reserve force.

Lieutenant Hale, to whom the question of camp sites has been referred by General Merritt, said yesterday to a reporter for The Tribune: "I paid a yesterday to a reporter for the Tribune: "I paid a yesterday to a reporter for the tribune: "I paid a yesterday to a reporter for the water, and the quality is excellent and the supply is abundant. The point is easy of access, and troons can be readily moved anywhere they may be needed. I have recommended this site, and favor bringing half, if not all, the

EVERY HOUR IN THE DAY

DEWEY WILL TAKE ILOILO ANNEXATION NOT FAR OFF.

ABLY REPORTED.

ABLE ACTION BY CONGRESS.

Washington, May 17.-Early consideration o the Hawaiian annexation resolution in the House seems probable. As soon as it was rethe Committee on Foreign Affairs, had a consultation with Speaker Reed and other members of the Committee on Rules, with a view of having the committee report a special order for conence Mr. Hitt said that no positive assurance had been given, but he was doing his utmost, and was hopeful of securing early action by the House. It is understood that Speaker Reed, while personally opposed to annexation, is not inclined to resist the pressure for immediate and favorable action, which comes from the President and a practically united party in the House and the Senate. The Speaker has never stood in the way of his party's united desire, and this fact is pointed to now as an indication that a rule for consideration of the Hawaiian resolution will be reported soon.

Senator Davis, chairman of the Foreign Rela tions Committee, to-day expressed the hope that the House would pass the annexation resolution within the next week or two, and he said that if it should do so he would ask the Senate to take it up and dispose of it before the final adjourn ment of Congress.

CHAIRMAN HITT'S REPORT.

Chairman Hitt to-day presented the majority report of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in favor of the annexation of Hawaii by joint resolution. The report says that the proposition is not new to either Government For fifty years it has been apparent that so small and feeble a Government must be merged with a stronger Power. The report continues; There is no undue pressure on the part of the United States as a greater Power; no surprise of any one; no possibility of objections by other Governments. It is simply the obvious result of the natural course of events through a long period of years, thus completed with the cordial consent of the sovereign powers of both Govern-. The only question involved is whether oposed possession of the Hawaiian Islands uld be advantageous to the United States.

The strategic importance of the islands is then discussed, also the risk of delaying acquisition, as there is danger of the islands falling under Japanese influence and control. Amer percial interests would be promoted and annexation would do away with the foreign complications of the islands. A brief argument is made on the subject of acquiring territory by nothing in the Constitution to prevent such

equisition. In conclusion the report says: The acquisition of these islands does not contravene our National policy or traditions. It carries out the Monroe Doctrine, which excludes European Powers from Interfering in the American continent and outlying islands, but does continent and outlying Islands, but deep limit the United States; and this doctrine been long applied to these very islands by Government. As Secretary Blaine said in , the situation of the Hawaiian Islands, giving them strategic control of the North Pa-cific, brings their possession within the range of questions of purely American policy. The an-nexation of these islands does not launch us upon a new policy or depart from our time-honored traditions of caring first and foremost for the safety and prosperity of the United States.

OBJECTIONS OF THE MINORITY

The minority report on the resolutions, signed by Messra, Dinsmore, Clark, Williams and How ard, gives eight reasons against annexation, and that the only hope for annexation is under the going in the direction of Cuba or Porto Rico. ery of "war emergency" before the people can be consulted. The other counts are that ansexation in the manner proposed is uncoional; the islands are too remote, and nor otherwise homogeneous with that of this country, political dominion over the island is not tenture to the commanding the United States steamer Alex, commanding the United States steamer Alex, from a naval or military point of view, necessary to defence, and that, admitting that their foreign occupation would be dangerous, and that "there exists a single nation willing in the face of our repeated diplomatic declarations of our position to incur the dangers of war with us in order to seize or hold them," this danger may be met when the first overt act or open declaration shows its actual existence, or may be prevented by the passage of the minority resolution heretofore cited.

San Diego, Cal, May 17.—Captain Leutze, commanding the United States steamer Alex, now in this harbor, reports that there are two Spanish gunboats of about 150 tons each at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and that they have been there much longer than neutrality laws allow. This is the first news received of any Spanish warships being on the west coast of America. The news was given to Captain Leutze by the commanding the United States steamer Alex, now in this harbor, reports that there are two Spanish gunboats of about 150 tons each at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and that they have been there much longer than neutrality laws allow. This is the first news received of any Spanish warships being on the west coast of America. The news was given to Captain Leutze by the Guayaquil.

HAWAII'S LATEST PROPOSAL

COMMENT IN WASHINGTON ON THE OFFER TO PASS AN OCCUPATION BILL.

Washington, May 17.-The news published this morning, that Hawaii would not proclaim neutrality, but probably would enact an occupation bill, which when ratified by the Senate would enable the United States to raise its flag over the islands and use them as a base of supplies and operations during the war, was commented on generally to-day at the Capitol. It was not considered as surprising. Representative Hitt, of Illinois, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, expressed the prevailing opinion. "This probable action on the part of Hawali," he said, "is certainly in strict accord with what might be expected. Having favored a pending treaty for annexation, having manifested her willingness and eagerness to become tirely inconsistent for Hawaii now to declarn utrality and manifest no preference and show no favor between this Government and its enemy. Her refusal to declare neutrality and Brigadier-General Royal T. Frank has been at her proposition to lend herself as a base of sup-

the Hawaiian Government favors formally permitting the occupation of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States in case of war, but some of the members of the committee knew that such a measure was in contemplation by the Hawaiian authorities. Senator Davis, chairman of the committee, and Senator Frye, who occupies the next place, both had such knowledge, and both said that the committee had never taken the matter up in any way. They, however, approve the proceeding as individual Senators, and express the opinion that if the Hawaiian Legislature passes the objinion that if the Hawaiian Legislature passes the bill it would be well for the United States to accept the tender of the islands. The legislation proposed would, they say, make Hawaii an aily of this country, and they believe the co-operation of the island Government likely to be of importance.

The measure under consideration by the Hawaiians is a simple bill, granting to the United States authority to use the Hawaiian territory practically as it would be equivalent to the formation of an alliance, but doubt is extending the country. Its acceptance would be equivalent to the formation of an alliance, but doubt is extending the country. The measure under consideration by the formation of an alliance, but doubt is extending the country. Its acceptance would be equivalent to the formation of an alliance, but doubt is extending the country. The measure under consideration by the formation of an alliance, but doubt is extending the country. The measure under consideration by the formation of an alliance, but doubt is extending the world. Spain did not wish for war. Her conduct proved this, by conceding everything a self-towarian could oncede. But the Americans believe the had an ever taken the most unjust war. Her conduct proved this, by conceding everything a self-towarian could oncede. But the Americans believes the what became and they and discovered by Spaniards leads for something more, and even what became and they country, then have an bitten and countr the 1st Artillery, and his majority was gained in mitting the occupation of the Hawaiian Islands issi, and his neutronal the was at the head of the became a colonel. He was at the head of the the members of the committee knew that such a list for promotion when the President recently des-ignated the brigadier-generals of volunteers, and measure was in contemplation by the Hawalian was one of the first named. The familiarity of authorities. Senator Davis, chairman of the General Frank with artillery operations makes the committee, and Senator Frye, who occupies the selection of him for the important command of the Department of the East especially appropriate, as said that the committee had never taken the

country. Its acceptance would be equivalent to the formation of an alliance, but doubt is expressed by some Senators as to whether the President would be disposed to enter upon it in the absence of formal action looking to the an-nexation of Hawaii.

POLAND SPRING HOUSE, MAINE.
Opens June 1st. Special June rates. Fine Golf
Links. Special representative Poland Water Depot,
3 Park PL, N. Y.—Advt.

WAR RECORD OF YESTERDAY.

ADMIRAL DEWEY RENEWS HIS AGGRESSIVENESS IN RIGID CENSORSHIP OF CABLE MES-THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

TWO VESSELS SENT TO CAPTURE THE PORT OF ILOILO.

BAGASTA SAID TO HAVE FORMED A CABINET-SPANISH FLEET SUPPOSED TO BE OFF VENEZUELA OR COLOMBIA-MEASURES TAKEN IN WASHING-TON TO KEEP INFORMATION FROM REACHING THE ENEMY.

Admiral Dewey has sent the Boston and the Concord to take the port of Iloilo, in the Philippines, and incidentally recapture the Saranac. He finds the insurgents of little aid as allies.

It is semi-officially announced in Madrid that the new Spanish Cabinet will be the same as the old, with Señors Gamazo, Leon y Castillo and Giron and Admiral Butler substituted for Señors Moret and Gullon, Count Xiquena and Admiral Bermejo.

A dispatch from Curacoa says it is supposed that the Spanish fleet is off the coast of Venezuela or Colombia.

The American warships on the Cuban blockade station are watching with redoubled vigilance for the enemy's squadron. General Gomez reports the Cuban insurgent troops in fine spirits. The

Spanish forces in Cuba are moving westward. The Government established a rigid censorship of cable messages, to prevent

the disclosure of its plans to the enemy. General Merritt informed the War Department that certain interviews representing him as severely criticising the plans for the Philippines expedition were unauthorized and incorrect. The increased force of regulars he desires will probably be granted.

The report that the President intended to issue another call for volunteers was denied by General Miles.

Both the United States and Spain have adopted Red Cross regulations in regard to the sick and wounded. This action insures the neutrality of the ambulance-ship Solace.

WARSHIPS SUPPOSED TO BE OFF VENE-ZUELAN COAST.

THE TERROR AND THE ALICANTE STILL AT FORT DE FRANCE - EARTHQUAKE SHOCK AT ST. PIERRE.

Curaçoa, Dutch West Indies, May 17 .- The Spanish fleet is now supposed to be off the coast of Venezuela, or off the coast of Colombia. Only a portion of the fleet was allowed to

and coal, which were purchased here. Confirmation was obtained of the report that the Spaniards lost one of their torpedo-gunboats

at Fort de France, Island of Martinique. St. Pierre, Martinique, May 17.—The Spanish torpedo-boat destroyer Terror and the hospital ship Allcante are still at Fort de France. It is rumored that the repairs to the Terror are finished, and that she will leave the harbor to-

The signal lights continue, and last night a large number were flashed from the hills.

A Spanish vessel entered the harbor late last night, showing no lights, rapidly scouted and left immediately. About 10:30 o'clock last evening an earthquake

shock was distinctly felt here. This experience, combined with the excitement caused by the ffers a substitute resolution practically estab- presence and movements of the Spanish warlishing a protectorate over the islands. They ships, keeps up the public strain. There is no declare that the Hawalian people have not been | doubt that the Spanish fleet, which has been consulted, nor the American people, and charge lying in these waters, has now left Martinique,

> SPANISH GUNBOATS IN THE PACIFIC. note, and furnish there are two in the Harbor of

San Diego, Cal., May 17.—Captain Leutze, 8 commanding the United States steamer Alert,

WILL SOON BE STARVED OUT.

London, May 18 .- The Hong Kong correspondent of "The Standard" says. "It is expected, owing to the strict blockade and the famine resulting from it, that the city

of Manila will soon be compelled to capitulate to the American blockading squadron under Rear-Admiral Dewey."

PROMINENT SPANIARDS QUARREL. London, May 18 .- The Madrid correspondent of "The Daily Mail" says:

"General Sanchez Mira to-night insulted Lieutenant-General Azearraga (Minister of War in the last Canovas Cabinet, and the head of the Ministry after the murder of Canovas). The incident occurred in the Puerte del Sol. They were separated, and the military authorities will probably prosecute General Mira."

CERVERA ADDRESSES HIS MEN. Madrid, May 17 .- At the inoment of his departure from the Cape Verd Islands, Admiral Cervera, in command of the Spanish squadron in West Indian waters, made the following address to the crews of his ships;

After three years of struggle in Cuba we were to annexation would be strong evidences of good faith on the part of Hawaii, and would add much to the influences already at work to accomplish annexation."

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has never considered as a body the bill which the Hawaiian Government favors formally permitting the occupation of the Hawaiian Islands

NO PROTEST TO HOLLAND.

The Hague, May 17.-Up to this afternoon no

protest has been received from Washington regarding the coaling and provisioning of Spanish day and to go out cruising at night. warships at Curaçoa, Dutch West Indies,

SPANISH FLEET MOVEMENTS. 1 GENERAL GOMEZ HEARD FROM.

HIS TROOPS ARE IN GOOD SPIRITS-SPAN-ISH TROOPS MOVING WESTWARD IN THE ISLAND. BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

Key West, Fla., May 17.-The German steamer Polaria, from Santiago de Cuba, arrived in this port to-day. Under special dispensation from the State Department she will proceed to-morow to Havana. Among her passengers will be Augustus Bock, a Havana cigar manufacturer, and two English newspaper correspondents, who Intend to remain in the Cuban capital until peace enter this harbor to obtain provisions, cattle is restored. The Polaria is the second vessel to receive official permission to run the blockade, the other being the French liner Lafayette, which was released after her capture.

Notice was served on newspaper correspondents here to-day that press-dispatch boats will hereafter be allowed to enter the harbor at all hours of the day or night, on displaying the proper signals. This privilege has hitherto been enjoyed by the vessels belonging to only one newspaper, but Secretary Long has reversed the decision of the local naval authorities, and has thereby won the thanks of the entire corps of Another commission from General Maximo

Gomez, the insurgent Commander-in-Chief, arrived at Key West to-day. John F. Jova, the former United States Vice-Consul at Sagua la Grande, who was landed by an American gunboat on the coast of Cuba about ten days ago, was picked up yesterday afternoon after an exciting experience with a Spanish gunboat, which the American gunboat chased into her harbor. Mr. Jova succeeded in reaching the camp of General Gomez, and has brought back dispatches from the latter to Commodore Watson. the reports that General Gomez and the several thousand troops with him are in the best of spirits, and hopeful of a speedy ending of the present situation. Mr. Jova also reports that Spanish troops are moving westward, keeping in the cities. He made part of the journey classification is a small best and was being in the cities. He made part of the journey along the coast in a small boat, and was being chased by a Spanish gunboat when the American gunboat hove in sight. The Spaniard, though several miles off, fired a number of shots at the American vessel. The latter proceeded to pick up Mr. Jova and two companions of the former Consul, and then chased the Spanish gunboat, which promptly scudded for safety into port.

Incoming vessels report that all is quiet on the blockade line.

IT SOUNDED LIKE A BATTLE.

Port-au-Prince, May 17.-A great sensation was caused here by the arrival to-day of the military commandant of the Isle of Tortuga, off Port de Paix, near the entrance to the Windward Passage, who brought word to the Haytian War Department of what is believed to have been a naval engagement on Sunday. The commandant reached Port de Paix from the Isle of Tortuga in a canoe. He reported to the War Office that throughout the whole of Sunday a persistent cannonading had been heard east of the Island, and that from its duration and intensity there was a strong presumption that a serious action was in progress. A thick fog at the time made it impossible to distinguish any vessel that might be engaged.

A BIG AND MYSTERIOUS FLEET.

(Copyright: 1898; The Ass St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, May 17.-It vas reported here this morning that last Sunday from noon until 6 p. m. twenty-seven ves sels slowly steamed westerly north of Tortola Island, forty miles east of St. Thomas. One steamer, which approached the land, showed the

THE MINNEAPOLIS REPORTED. Boston, May 17 .- A dispatch to "The Globe" from Halifax says:

"A special cable from Turks Island says the American cruiser Minneapolis passed through the channel this morning, steering a southwest-erly course. Turks Island is north of San Do-

WON'T SEND MESSAGES FOR SPAIN. London, May 17 .- The American cable companies in this city have issued instructions to their agents to refuse to transmit any Spanish Gov-

ernment messages. PROMINENT TURKS COMING.

London, May 18.-General Enver Pacha and Capta'n Halil Bey, according to a dispatch from Constantinople to "The Standard," have started for the United States, on the order of the Sultan, to accompany the American forces during the war with Spain as military and naval attaches,

SPANISH GUNBOATS EAST OF CUBA. (Copyright: 1898; The Associated Press.)

Cape Haytien, Hayti, May 17.-Two Spanish cruisers or gunboats are making their base of operations at Badiquiri, or Guantanamo Bay. operations at Badiquiri, or Guantanamo Bay. They are known to be moving every night in the waters between Hayti and Cuba. A Haytian schooner plying between the Mole St. Nicolas, Jean Rabel and Glatinagua reports, through an agent of the Cuban insurgents at Port-de-Paix, having met the Spanish vessels several times during the last few weeks. The Spaniards are supposed to hide in the Cuban ports during the

THE NEW GOVERNMENT BONDS. Mr. Bingham, of Mount Pleasant House, White

Mts. will be at No. 3 Park Pl. for two weeks.—Advt.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT BONDS.

The Brooklyn Eagle Information Bureau will a Government distributing agency.—Advt.

NAVAL PLANS KEPT SECRET. NO NEWS FROM THE FLEETS

SAGES ESTABLISHED. THE GOVERNMENT TAKES VIGOROUS MEAS-

URES TO PREVENT INFORMATION REACHING THE ENEMY.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, May 17 .- For the first time since the beginning of the war between Spain and the United States the public here, as at other news centres throughout the country, finds itself to-night practically without definite or trustworthy information as to the plans and movements of the American men-of-war engaged in operations in West Indian waters. It is known in a general way that Admiral Sampson's squadron, which is seeking an encounter with the Spanish vessels reported two days ago off Curaçoa Island, has moved southwest from Cape Haytien through the Windward Passage, and is now somewhere in the vicinity of Ja-

At the Navy Department the statement in rather ostentatiously made that Cienfuegos is the immediate destination of Admiral Sampon's ships, but it is scarcely probable that what is now the eastern wing of the American blockading fleet will move quite so far to the west as Cienfuegos, and thus leave open to Admiral Cervera's squadron a retreat toward Porto Rico or to any of the neutral ports in the Windward group.

So stringent has the official censorship of oress and commercial telegrams become that little or no information throwing light on the movements of the hostile squadrons now in the Caribbean Sea is likely to reach American renders. According to an agreement drawn by General Greely, the Chief of the Signal Corps, and accepted by the six cable telegraph companies which have lines entering the United States, no code or cipher messages will now be transmitted to this country, nor will any messages, press or other, be delivered which contain disclosures operating to the disadvantage of the United States in the conduct of the war with Spain. Hereafter only the Government can obtain telegraphic information from the West Indies laying bare the movements on the maritime chessboard there, and the Navy Department has already expressed its purpose to withhold such news from the public until the rival fleets now manceuvring for position have come to blows or have so far separated as to make the chances of an actual encounter

The position taken by the Government is recognized, of course, as a prudent and necessary one, and no fust complaint can be made of the rigers of the censorship put in force from today. As in the case of Admiral Dewey's victory at Manila, the Navy Department will glady make public the results of any naval action, but until its own strategic plans for forcing the enemy to a battle can be worked out, it will continue to discourage the publication of news calculated to enlighten opposing commanders or to endanger exposed and unsupported groups of vessels in the American block-

NO MORE VOLUNTEERS WANTED.

THE PRESIDENT NOT CONTEMPLATING AN-OTHER CALL.

Washington, May 17 (Special).-The rapidity with which the muster of volunteers is proceeding is shown by the fact that 92,000 were reported to-night, an increase of nearly 12,000 today, against 10,000 yesterday. General Corbin says the 100,000 mark will be passed to-morrow. and the entire force will be accepted before the end of the week. Over half of these men, however, are destitute of equipment. Few of then them have serviceable uniforms. It will be weeks before most of the volunteers will be fully

equipped for battle. Under these circumstances the report that the President is contemplating an additional call for troops is hardly worth denial, had it not been so persistently reiterated in the last few days. Assertions were made to-night that the President had prepared a proclamation to be issued o-morrow, calling for 50,000 more men. On the contrary, there is every reason for believing that no additional troops will be called for beyond the few regiments of yellow fever immunes, numbering less than 5,000 men.

REPORT DENIED BY GENERAL MILES.

Washington, May 17 .- General Miles, commanding the Army, said to-day that it was not the intention of the President to call for an ad-

ditional number of volunteers at this time NOT RELAXING THE BLOCKADE

Washington, May 17.-The fact that several vessels under neutral flags have been permitted to pass the blockade lines on the Cuban coast is not to be taken as an indication that the Government intends to relax the blockade in any degree. Bu' some of the naval officers on the blockading station, unaware of the fact that the proclamation issued by the President allowed neutral vessels in Cuban ports thirty days to clear, summarily ordered some of these ships to sail immediately on the establishment of the blockade. This was the case with the steamer Myrtledene, which was yesterday permitted to pass the blockade at Cardenas. The ship had been previously required to leave the port by the senior officer of the blockading fleet. She was entitled under the proclamation to remain in port until May 22, and when this fact was brought to the attention of the proper authorities orders were sent to Commodore Watson to let the Myrtiedene re-enter Cardenas. Harbor and enjoy the privilege she had a right to claim under the proclamation. So there is not, as might have been supposed at first, any ground on the part of other neutral nations than Great Britain to claim the right for their vessels to pass the blockade lines unless the conditions are like those in the Myrtiedene case.

NEW WAR BILLS IN CONGRESS.

MEASURES RELATING TO BOTH ARMY AND NAVY Washington, May 17.—The House Committee on Military Affairs agreed to-day to report favorably the bills prohibiting the photographing of guns which would give the strength of any fortification of the United States; increasing the number of post quartermaster-sergeants of the Army by twenty-five, and suspending the provisions of the stat-utes that limit the number of Army hospital stewards to one hundred, and that require the stewards before appointment to demonstrate fitness by service of not less than a year as acting hospital

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has reported favorably a bill reorganizing the revenue cutter service. It empowers the convening of boards to enforce discipline, etc., makes the term of the enlisted force not to exceed three years, declares absence of an enlisted person for three days desertion, and prohibits officers dismissed or suffered to resign to escape dismissal from again becoming officers. It also provides for the co-operation of the revenue cutter service with the Navy whenever the President so directs. Senator Chandler, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, to-day reported a bill providing a retired list with three-quarters pay for enlisted men and petty officers who serve thirty years in the Navy.

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